

Writer: Jaeckel, L.E. (Secretary)

See Also: American Assoc. of Museums

Palmetto Numismatic Museum
[Heath Springs, SC]

1933-1934

THE PALMETTO NUMISMATIC MUSEUM

"FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION"

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LOUIS E. JAECKEL
SECRETARY-TREASURER
CUSTODIAN

LANCASTER, S. C.

Heath Springs, S. C.

December 27th, 1933.



Numismatic Society of America
Broadway at 155th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

At the end of the year we find ourselves with duplicates of several foreign military decorations for which we have no need, and it occurred to us that you might be able to put us in touch with a prospective purchaser in order that we can turn these into cash with which to purchase other articles for our display.

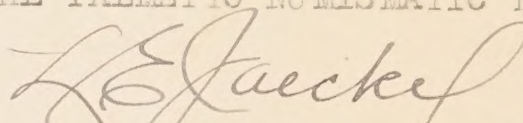
Not keeping in touch with collectors, we felt that our best course would be in communicating with you and securing the names of a few of your members who would be interested in making such purchases, paying a fair price for what we have to offer. For instance, we have a Victoria Cross of England which we will sell for \$50.00; two French Military Medals, (Medaille Militaire), which we will sell for \$20.00 each; there are a number of other decorations seldom found in the United States.

Thanking you for anything you may be able to do to help us in the matter, we are

Sincerely yours,

THE PALMETTO NUMISMATIC MUSEUM INC.

LEJ:DW


L. E. Jaeckel, Secretary

February 14, 1934.

Mr. L. E. Jaeckel, Secretary
The Palmetto Numismatic Museum
Heath Springs, S. C.

Dear Sir:

I have delayed answering your letter as we have been extremely busy the past month with reports, annual meeting etc. Also, we have been somewhat at a loss to advise you as to who is actively collecting military decorations at the present time. The demand for these the past few years has fallen to a very low ebb and we know of hardly anyone who would be interested. The only person we can suggest is J. A. Frayne, 74 Hudson Avenue, Maplewood, N. J.

As for the Victoria Cross, the price of \$50.00 causes us to be suspicious as to whether it is genuine or not and the price for the two French military medals is to our mind extremely high. We ourselves are buying very little in the medal line. If you care to send us a list of what you have we would be glad to look it over and it might possibly be something that we would want.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

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"FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION"

~~LANCASTER, S. C.~~

HEATH SPRINGS, S. C.

February 17th, 1934.

Mr. Howard Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society
Broadway & 156th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your favor of the 14th instant.

We appreciate your suggestion of Mr. Frayne as a prospective purchaser of military and naval decorations. You misunderstood our first letter, however, as we do not have many items with which we would part. Those items of which I wrote were superfluous at the moment, but what you say regarding the prices quoted leads us to believe that we are overvaluing some and undervaluing others.

2.8 mm

With regard to the French Military medals, these were contributed to us from American recipients during the war, therefore we had to go by hearsay in estimating their value. As to the Victoria Cross of England, from what you say we believe the \$50.00 quoted was not the value you would have placed upon it. This is due largely to the fact that our exhibits are contributions for which we paid little or nothing, therefore we are unfamiliar with prices. We do know the Victoria Cross is rare, and I describe herewith the decoration, and ask if you will be so kind as to give your opinion as to its genuiness.

1 7/8

A claret ribbon 1 1/2 inches wide, mounted on a safety lock bar pin, terminating in a bronze bar with a laurel leaf spray, (we presume this to be a laurel leaf effect), with a "V" in the center from which is suspended the cross, 1 1/2" by 1 1/2 inches, a raised border 1/8 inch wide, cross bar ends 3/4 inch in length; superimposed is a Lion wearing a crown, standing over the Royal Crown, under which is a scroll bearing the words "For Valor". The ends of the scroll return over the cross bars. The Cross is 3/32 of an inch thick, and presumably cast from bronze taken from captured cannon in the Crimean war. The ~~obverse~~ reverse is plain, except for the raised border and a raised circle 3/4 inch in diameter to outer edge, and 9/16 diameter at inner edge.

The decoration has been viewed by Englishmen and pronounced genuine, though we cannot guarantee it because of the fact that it was left to us through the will of a man whose son supposedly won the decoration while serving with the British Army. Thusfar those Englishmen who have seen it have pronounced it genuine. If we have underestimated the intrinsic value of the genuine decoration, we should appreciate being corrected. We know they are scarce as collector's exhibits.

The opportunity to communicate with you brings to mind the question of our own standing. We are a new organization, an eleemosynary corporation under the laws of South Carolina, and display our exhibits in the high school building of this city. Naturally we look forward to expansion and to recognition. Being in our infancy, so to speak, we have not yet attracted a great deal of attention, specializing for the time being in military and naval decorations and curios. We should, however, like to affiliate ourselves with such national institutions as will be of assistance to us in the matter of securing recognition of collectors and brother museums. Our financial state at this writing is not such that we can pay large membership fees for such affiliation and listing in the professional directories, but we should like to know the cost of such registration and membership in the Society. We have no desire to be on the outside, and we want to become recognized by numismatists and museums the world over. Your advices regarding this matter will be appreciated. We have to purchase exhibits sparingly at present, but look forward to the day when finances will permit wider latitudes.

Speaking of those things which we have on hand, we number among this restricted display the following items:

U. S. Navy Congressional Medal of Honor, (solid gold); U. S. Army Distinguished Service Cross; Army, Navy & Marine Corps Distinguished Flying Cross; Navy Cross; Marine Brevet Medal; Navy & Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals; Navy Specially Meritorious Service Medal; Navy Distinguished Service Medal; Byrd Antarctic Expedition Medals in gold, silver and bronze; NC-4 medal; Sampson Medal; Dewey Medal; all Navy & Marine Corps service medals for campaigns and expeditions; Victoria Cross; French Military Medal; French Croix de Guerre; Belgian Croix de Guerre; Portugese Croix de Guerre 2nd class; Italian Cross of War; Czechoslovakia Cross of War; Greek War Cross 2nd class; British War Service medal, silver; British Mercantile Marine Service medal; French and British commemorative medals; Verdun Medal; French Medal of Honor or Social Assurance; French Mutuality Medal; Victory medals, Army, Navy & Marine Corps, with all clasps; qualification medals and badges for proficiency; state and organization medals, some impossible to obtain other than through inheritance.

STATE:

New York World War service medal; New York Conspicuous Service Cross; Connecticut World War service medal; New Jersey World War service medal; Pennsylvania World War service medal; Richmond, Va., World War service medal; New Hampshire World War service medal; New Jersey Faithful Service medal, sterling silver; New Jersey Medal of Merit; Vermont 100% Duty medal; Rhode Island Long & Faithful Service medal; Massachusetts Long Service Medal with clasps; Tennessee Long Service Medal; Iowa service medals, (4), 5, 10, 15 and 20 year medals; New Jersey National Guard medal; Georgia National Guard Service medal; North Carolina World War service medal; Ohio Mexican Border service medal; Vermont Faithful Service Medal; Wisconsin Faithful Service medal; Pennsylvania Mexican Border Service medal; New Jersey Mexican Border service medal; Tennessee Mexican Border service medal; Wisconsin Mexican Border service medal; Wisconsin Spanish War service medal; Medal of the American Society of American Military Engineers, (bronze from captured German howitzers); Veterans of Foreign Wars medal; American Legion Medal; Medal of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War; Medal of the Legion of Valor; Navy League Medal; Spanish American War veterans medal; Medal of the Virginia Volunteers, (obsolete and rare).

These comprise our most important exhibits of this nature. We are, however, accumulating others weekly. We are approved by the Navy Department, the Marine Corps, the Adjutants General of two-thirds of the States, and should now like to know what it will cost us to become members of the society. Approval of the War Department is pending.

Thanking you again for your letter, and anticipating your further advices, we are

Sincerely yours,

THE PALMETTO NUMISMATIC MUSEUM INC.


L. E. JAECKEL, Secretary

February 20, 1934.

Mr. L. E. Jaeckel, Secretary
The Palmetto Numismatic Museum
Heath Springs, S. C.

Dear Mr. Jaeckel:

I would not place the value of the French military medals much over \$5.00, for the simple reason that they can be bought new from several of the makers in Paris. The Victory Cross is worth anywhere from \$150.00 to \$300.00. It, however, should have on the reverse in the circle the date of the event for which it was awarded and on the reverse the palm bearing the name of the recipient. The dimensions you gave for this seem to be correct. All genuine ones are cast and have a slight yellow bronze color.

You or your Museum should join the American Association of Museums, Smithsonian Institution, Washington. If the Museum joins, the fee is more than if an individual joins - I think it is \$10.00 vs. \$5.00. Membership in our Society is \$5.00 a year. Either an officer or the Museum can join. We publish monographs from four to six times a year. The retail price of these is much more than the dues paid in. There is also an American Numismatic Association that has about 2000 members throughout the country and they publish a monthly magazine on coins called the Numismatist. The dues including subscription to the Numismatist are \$3.00 a year. I am enclosing applications to both organizations.

From the list of medals you have I note that you have gotten from both the Marine Corps and the Navy about all of their medals, as well as many of the State medals. I suppose you obtained these for the most part by writing the Adjutant Generals of the various States. I note in your list several we do not have but I have not written the various States for several years. There are two medals I note we do not have - the medal of the American Society of American Military Engineers and the Spanish American War Veterans Medal. To whom did you write to get these? I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator